

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EC, EP, GR

SUBJECT: EC/GREECE NEGOTIATIONS DISCUSSED AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. IN REPLY TO QUESTION IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 9 ABOUT WHEN GREECE CAN EXPECT TO BECOME A FULL EC MEMBER, JOHN TOMLINSON, UK UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE IN FCO AND ACTING PRESIDENT-IN-COUNCIL, SAID SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH ARE COMPLEX, HAVE BEEN UNDER WAY ONLY SINCE LAST DECEMBER AND THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHEN THEY WILL CONCLUDE. TOMLINSON NOTED THAT THIS EARLY PERIOD OF NEGOTIATION IS DESIGNED TO LAY OUT INITIAL POSITIONS AND ISOLATE PROBLEM AREAS WHICH WILL BE RESOLVED ONLY AT A LATER STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS REGARDING DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH EC COUNCIL VIEWS THE ACCESSION TALKS, TOMLINSON RECALLED CROSLAND'S ASSURANCE TO PARLIAMENT LAST MONTH THAT THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS IT "POLITICALLY IMPORTANT" FOR GREECE TO ACHIEVE FULL EC MEMBERSHIP.

3. SHORTLY AFTER FOREGOING PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE, GREEK

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AMBASSADOR TO EC, WHO WAS ALSO IN LUXEMBOURG FOR PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, TOLD MISSION OFFICER HE WAS PUZZLED AS TO WHAT IMPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FOR GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE CONTAINED IN COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS' COMMENTS ON ENLARGEMENT DURING HIS FEBRUARY 8 SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT LAYING OUT COMMISSION'S 1977 WORK PROGRAM (JENKINS ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE, BUT CAUTIONED THAT EC WOULD ALSO HAVE TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT

OVERALL IMPLICATIONS OF ENLARGEMENT FOR EC INSTITUTIONS).
NOTING THAT HE PREFERRED CROSLAND'S "RATHER MORE DIRECT
ENDORSEMENT OF GREEK NEGOTIATIONS," GREEK AMBASSADOR
ACKNOWLEDGED, NONETHELESS, THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE OFF TO A
GOOD START AND SAID THAT AS OF NOW HE DETECTS NO SERIOUS
ATTEMPT IN COMMUNITY CIRCLES TO SLOW DOWN THE GREEK TALKS
WHILE DECIDING WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE ANTICIPATED APPLICATIONS
FROM PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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